

Definitions of Regulated Biohazardous Waste (Red Bag)

As defined by the Arkansas Department of Health

'Rules and Regulations Pertaining to The Management of Medical Waste from Generators and Health Care Related Facilities' Promulgated Under the [Authority of Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-109 and Ark. Code Ann. §§ 20-32-101-112](#). In consonance with [OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.1030](#)

Pathological Waste¹

All human unfixed tissues, organs, and anatomical parts, other than intact skin, which emanate from surgeries, obstetrical procedures, dental procedures, autopsies, and laboratories, including embalming waste. Such waste shall be exclusive of bulk formaldehyde and other preservative agents².

Liquid or Semi-Liquid Blood

Human blood, human blood components and/or products made from human blood (e.g., serum, plasma) and other potentially infectious materials, to include regulated human body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, synovial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids, can be discharged into the collection system of a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) within the generating facility. Breast milk, urine, and feces are not considered medical waste and can also be discharged into the (POTW).

Contaminated Items¹

To include dressings, bandages, packing, gauze, sponges, wipes, personal protective equipment, cotton rolls and balls, etc., which cannot be laundered or disinfected and from which blood, blood components, or regulated body fluids drip freely, or that would release blood or regulated body fluids in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed or are caked with dried blood or regulated body fluids and all capable of releasing these materials during handling, not to include feminine products, enema bags, used condoms, or diapers.

- a. Contaminated disposable, single-use gloves such as surgical or examination gloves shall not be washed or decontaminated for reuse and are to be handled as a contaminated item.
- b. Protective coverings such as plastic wrap and aluminum foil used to cover equipment and environmental surfaces when following their contamination are considered a contaminated item.
- c. All patient care items from hospital isolation rooms and end-stage renal dialysis units, or from patients with communicable diseases, which cannot be laundered and which are contaminated with regulated body fluids or blood or potential infectious material, must be considered a contaminated item.
- d. Biological waste and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or secretions from isolated animals known, or suspected, to be infected with communicable diseases.

Microbiological waste³

Includes, but is not limited to, cells and tissue cultures, culture medium or other solutions and stocks of infectious agents, organ cultures, culture dishes, devices used to transfer, inoculate and mix cultures, paper and cloth that has come in contact with specimens or cultures and discarded live or attenuated vaccines.

Contaminated sharps⁴

Includes, but is not limited to, any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin, e.g., hypodermic needles, intravenous tubing with needles attached, syringes with attached needles, razor blades used in surgery, scalpel blades, Pasteur pipettes, capillary tubes, broken glass from laboratories, and dental wires. Potentially breakable container(s) of blood, regulated body fluid, microbiological waste, or infectious material must be treated as contaminated sharps when disposed of. Sharps that have been used in human or animal patient care, treatment or for other medical procedures are included. Any waste produced in the course of physically altering a human being or animal including tattooing, ear piercing, or any other process where a foreign object is used to cut or pierce the skin. All waste generated in this manner meeting the definition of sharps must be handled accordingly.

Veterinary waste³

Includes any and all animal related waste (carcasses, body parts, bulk blood and blood products, bedding of animals, etc.) which meets the definition of any of the five categories delineated above and has been or is suspected to have been exposed to a zoonotic disease or pathogens known to cause human disease, or which has been exposed to human pathogens in research or the production of biological, **must be handled as medical waste**. All contaminated sharps and microbiological waste **must be handled as medical waste**.

Trace contaminated chemotherapy waste⁵

Includes: masks, empty drug vials, gloves, gowns, IV tubing, empty IV bags/bottles, and spill clean-up materials. Bulk chemotherapy wastes to include full expired vials of chemotherapy drugs are not considered to be medical/infectious wastes; they are considered hazardous wastes and must be handled accordingly.

Spill/clean-up material⁶

Collected during or resulting from the clean-up of a spill of regulated medical waste.

¹Collect in red bag

²Collect in red bag, but you **must declare chemical contaminants**

³Collect in red bag, but you **must declare chemical or pharmaceutical contaminants**

⁴Collect in red sharps container, but you **must declare chemical or pharmaceutical contaminants**

⁵Collect in red bag (or red sharps container if applicable), but you **must declare cytotoxic contaminants**

⁶Collect in red bag, but you **must declare chemical, pharmaceutical, and/or cytotoxic contaminants**